

January 23, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I think it is unfair for the bison that is native to this country and whom the true Native Americans have a spiritual link with to be uselessly slaughtered, hazed and harassed. I have spoken to many Lakota people and they are appalled at the way these animals are being treated. Not only have the Lakota people been forced off their rightful lands, now the bison as well. The governments main goal was to rid the US of all Indians and to do that was to get rid of the bison first. It is not right. Brucellosis is NOT the issue at hand. it's the blatant misuse of a great American icon. The hunters come up here and do their "canned" hunts. Wanting to be able to shoot the animal from the road side. Be on roads they have no business being on with their snowmobiles in residential areas. Killing for the sake of a trophy head instead of for the meat and leaving behind bits and pieces that aren't wanted or needed. The Native Americans used each and every part of the bison that killed to feed and clothe their families. Following is a correspondence from a friend of mine on this issue:

From: Autumn TwoBulls Pine Ridge Reservation

Brenda i wanna come up there i wanna document this with my video camera and bring some warriors to protect our buffalo. I dreamt of this honestly i knew somebody would contact me over our protector the the Tantanka

Tatanka or buffalo was held in high regard by the Lakota people. The buffalo was respected as a symbol of the divine because the buffalo was a "banquet" for the people.

The creature gave up its own flesh and life to feed them. It provided for their every need by way of sheltering them with its hide over their tipis, covering their bodies as clothing and their feet as moccasins. Tatanka also provided everyday utensils such as needle and thread, awls, bowls and more. In this way, the buffalo was a true relative for the people - making life possible.

Because of the buffalo's great importance to the people, a buffalo symbol or buffalo skull is present in all sacred Lakota rituals. It stands as a reminder of this great animal which gives completely of itself for others. The buffalo is a symbol of self-sacrifice; it gives until there is nothing left.

This was imitated by the people in their lives. To be generous and give what you have to others in need, or to honor them, is one of the most highly respected ways of acting or being.

From: Rochelle Zephier

IF U MEAN BUFFALO TO ME A BUFFALO STAND FOR STRENGTH AND SUSTANANCE AND LIFE WARMTH PROSPERITY , WE ARE THE BUFFALO NATION BECAUSE THE BUFFALO SUPPLIED US WITH EVERYTHING WE NEEDED TO SURVIVE AS A PEOPLE, EVEN TUNKASINA CAME TO THE PEOPLE AS WHITE BUFFALO CALF MAIDEN WHO THEN TURNED INTO BUFFALOS OF FOUR COLORS SO BUFFALOS MEAN ALOT TO ME WELL U CAN TAKE MY WORDS IF U WANT BECAUSE THATS HOW THEY TRIED TO KILL OFF THE SIOUX PEOPLE IS BY KILLING THE BUFFALO AND HERE THE BUFFALO IS THE BEST MEAT THERE IS..NO FAT THE BUFFALO WERE OUR LIVES WE USED EVERY PIECE OF THE BUFFALO TO LIVE

HIDE FOR CLOTHING AND TIPIS  
BONES FOR TOOLS  
STOMACHES FOR POTS  
EVEN THE POOP WAS BURNED IN FIRES

WE USED THE SINEW FROM MUSCLES TO SEW THE CLOTHING  
EVERYTHING WAS PUT TO USE  
NOTHING TO WASTE  
WHEN GOD COMES TO U AS A VISION OF SOME THING WHETHER IT BE A  
DOVE LIKE NOAH OR A GOAT OR MONKEYS YOU HONOR AND RESPECT IT  
YOU DONT SLAUGHTER IT SENSELESSLY  
ALL OUR ANIMALS WERE PUT HERE FOR A PURPOSE JUST LIKE ALL THE  
PLANTS  
PEOPLE FORGET ABOUT THAT AND THINK THEY OWN EVERYTHING AND  
CAN CONTROL EVERYTHING  
NATURE CANT BE CONTROLLED AND WILL FIGHT BACK OR WORSE... LEAVE

*Wendell P. Pung  
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